

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome



BLUETONGUE UPDATE

On 17th July 2025, we held an informative meeting on bluetongue.

Cases are expected to rise as we approach autumn, so please read the summary below:



Bluetongue (BTV) is a viral disease transmitted by **biting midges**, which affects **all ruminants** (e.g. sheep, cattle, goats and deer) and camelids (e.g. llama and alpaca). Clinical signs include lameness, lethargy, ulcers/sores around nose and mouth, fever, not eating, and milk drop.

Bluetongue is a [notifiable animal disease](#). If you suspect it, you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.

CURRENT RISK

- The **risk of transmission** via infected midges is now considered to be **very high** in England and most of Great Britain.
- The disease is very likely to have overwintered from 2024 into 2025, resulting in a rise of cases from July onwards. **BTV3 replicates best at warmer temperatures**, and so a warm spring and summer will increase the spread, infection rates and severity of disease for UK livestock.
- Sheep: **Morbidity rate** (the % of animals in a flock showing signs of illness) is variable, from single cases **up to 100%**. Of the sheep that developed clinical signs in the **UK in 2024**, it is estimated that the **case mortality rate** (% of ill animals which subsequently died) **was 70%**.
- Cattle: Morbidity and mortality rate is **much lower** than in sheep but has had marked effects on fertility and productivity. Cattle may act as **a source of the virus** for several weeks while displaying little or no clinical signs of disease and are often the preferred host for the biting midges.

BTV-3 VACCINATION

Defra's Secretary of State has permitted the use of **three bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV-3) vaccines** within the UK, subject to a valid licence or declaration.

These vaccines **reduce viraemia and clinical signs**, They won't prevent infection or transmission.

- In Germany, mortality (whole flock) in vaccinated flocks was 1-2% compared with 25-30% in unvaccinated flocks (Stellungnahme, 2024).

If you are considering a BTV3 vaccine, do not hesitate to contact us on 01455710935.

Additionally, you can use AHDB's online tools: **BTV vaccine cost-calculator** and **BTV decision-making tool** at <https://ahdb.org.uk/bluetongue>.

For more information, see <https://ahdb.org.uk/bluetongue> and <https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus-hub/> for regular updates on bluetongue in the UK and useful resources.

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In this issue:

- Bluetongue update and current risk.
- Summer Mastitis signs and prevention.

Exports:

We offer exports here at CCFV including:

- Live Ruminants
- Live Birds
- Product exports

Our team of fully insured vets can help you for both one off exports and longer-term regular orders. Supporting you from set up right through to the day of export, both to the EU and the rest of the world!



What does the farmer use to make crop circles?

Summer Mastitis

Summer mastitis cases vary from year to year, however, due to the weather conditions this year there is an increase in fly numbers and therefore summer mastitis risk. Summer mastitis predominantly occurs between June and September but can occur at any point. Therefore, it is a good time to consider the disease and how to prevent it.

What is summer mastitis?

- Infection of udder with a combination of bacteria most prevalent being *Trueperella pyogenes*.
- Seen mostly in non-lactating cows and in calf heifers but can occasionally be seen in young heifers and bulls/steers.
- Transmitted by the head fly (*hydropotus irritans*)

Clinical signs:

Early signs to look out for include, swarming of flies around the infected teat, mild enlargement of teats often occurring 1 week before cows become 'sick' and irritation/kicking the udder.

Later in the disease process obvious swelling of the affected quarter with foul smelling discharge on stripping the udder will be present. The animal will become sick and may show reluctance to walk, stiffness, isolation from the herd, fever and toxæmia. Summer mastitis may result in abortion or birth of weak calves that are at an increased risk of death. These cows are often extremely poorly and require prompt veterinary treatment, despite treatment they will often lose the affected quarter.

Treatment will often include an NSAID such as Metacam, intramammary and systemic antibiotics and fluid therapy. When managing cases, it is important to strip out the affected udder and isolate the cow.

Prevention:

- Fly control- pour-on products, fly tags, bait buckets etc. These should be utilised prior to the fly season to reduce numbers. Reapplication is required for most products. Please call us to discuss fly control options.
- Grazing- avoiding fields for dry cows/in-calf heifers with higher fly numbers where possible. The flies live in bushes, long grass/weeds, trees and sheltered areas and prefer humid conditions with low winds.
- Teat sealants to protect the teat.
- Teat damage- if a cow has teat damage at drying off/prior to turnout, housing and treating this prior to turnout reduces disease risk.



A Pro-tractor!

Cross Counties Farm Vets ☎ 01455 710935

Welford Branch: Elkington Lodge, Elkington Road, Welford, Northampton, NN6 6HE.

Lutterworth Branch: Elizabethan House, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 4NJ.

Broughton Astley Branch: 12 Swannington Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, LE9 6TU.

Email: office@ccfarmvets.co.uk **Website:** www.ccfarmvets.co.uk **Facebook:** Cross Counties Farm Vets